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Hungaria.HUNGARIAN REFUGEE CLAIMS GOOD GROOMING IS BEST DISGUISE

[The following article, extracted from the emigre paper, Hungaria, purports to tell how a potential class enemy should dress and behave to avoid arousing suspicion in Budapest today. It is interesting to note that the article claims, contrary to other reports, that the women of Budapest wear make-up and nail polish.]

A well-groomed person is not conspicuous in Budapest today; all really important officials dress well. The Communists want to look prosperous and successful; only the persecuted bourgeois elements appear shabby and timid. Communist women wear make-up, paint their nails, and frequent the beauty shops. Foreign clothes are regarded with envy rather than suspicion, because successful businessmen and members of the State Security Authority in particular are very partial to foreign haberdashery.

Although work clothes are supposed to be more conservative, and lipstick and nail polish are considered inappropriate with a uniform, the policewomen and female officers of the signal corps are expected to look chic as well as neat.

Literally thousands of forged certificates of employment are in circulation in Budapest. They are so common that it appears as though some specific organization were issuing them. All other personal papers are also readily available, including such items as railroad passes and medical certificates. These papers can be obtained openly and legally even from officials and physicians with whom one is personally unacquainted if the right approach is used. It is possible still to have railroad passes renewed.

To remain inconspicuous in Budapest, one must speak boldly and loudly in such places as the ministries, the Hungarian-Soviet Society, the Planning Office, and at all meetings of the mass organizations. A genteel and polite manner of speech betrays bourgeois antecedents, and an air of reserve excites suspicion.

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It is important to behave in a confident, casual, and even slightly supercilious manner; this makes the minor officials believe that one is an important personage. A genial and straightforward attitude creates the most favorable impression.

The official greeting in offices and public places is "szabadsag" (freedom); "elvtars" (comrade) for men and "elvtarsno" (comrade) for women is the accepted form of address wherever uniforms are worn. In factories and enterprises the salutation used is "kartars" (colleague), or "kartarsno" in the case of women. Members of the Hungarian League of Working Women address one another as "asszonytars" (woman colleague). The use of the familiar "thou" is very widespread and should be adopted by anyone who plans to stay in Hungary. This usage is nearly mandatory in the mass organizations and at the factories; nevertheless, an actual working woman would never employ the familiar "thou" in addressing the wife of a colonel, for instance. Women concierges like to be called "nagysagos asszony" (gracious lady) in private.

Generally speaking, the Hungarian workers behave in an exemplary way. Any person who finds himself in danger can request the help of a worker with complete confidence, provided the worker is not one of the plant's leading Communists. The workers themselves have often protected, and provided for, families left destitute by the arrest, execution, or deportation of the head of the family.

Resistance exists also in Hungary, but it is scattered and indefinable in order that it will be more difficult to detect. Occasionally the Communists detect a resistance nucleus in some plant or cooperative, but even then it is possible for the endangered individual to escape capture for years if he has many friends and a good reputation.

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